## Subject: FORMAT codes and tabs Posted by ashmall on Mon, 10 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Dear All,

I'm having trouble reading in a text file with dates and times in the form:

11/10/99<tab><sp>16<sp>:<sp>47

where <tab> and <sp> represent tabs and spaces.

Sometimes the day/months are consist of only 1 char (e.g. 3/4/99). I can write a separate FORMAT statement for each case but when I try to use I0 to deal with both cases it doesn't work and it seems to be due to the TAB char.

Am I just being foolish or what?

The following short program might hepl explain. I'm using IDL 5.2 under NT4.0.

Cheers.

**Justin** 

pro test read

;Create a Tab character tab = STRING(9B) ;Create 2 lines of dummy input line1 = '10/11/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42' line2 = '1/3/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42'

;This format works for days/months with 2 digits READS, line1, FORMAT='(I2,x,I2,x,I2,2x,I2,3x,I2)', dd,mm,yy,hh,mn print, dd,mm,yy,hh,mn

;This format works for days/months with 1 digit READS, line2, FORMAT='(I1,x,I1,x,I2,2x,I2,3x,I2)', d,m,yy,hh,mn print, d,m,yy,hh,mn

;How to use the same format code for both line1 and line2? ;Presumably need to use I0 to automatically adjust to different ;widths.

;Just trying to read in the first 3 numbers (the date)
READS, line1, FORMAT='(I0,x,I0)', dd,mm; This works
print, dd,mm
READS, line1, FORMAT='(I0,x,I0,x,I0)', dd,mm,yy; This DOESN'T work
READS, line1, FORMAT='(I0,x,I0,x,I2)', dd,mm,yy; This DOESN'T work
;Is there something strange going on with the tab character?

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